

# The West Point Carronade: Up Close and Personal

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## Abstract

Students in an academic environment regularly install malware such as viruses and spyware on their personal computers and then connect to institutional automation resources. Student education on information awareness can provide another vector to help deter malware installation.

At West Point, there was a problem with cadets clicking on suspicious attachments and embedded links. As a result, network performance and resource availability were impacted. West Point leadership needed a way to offer increased email security awareness in hopes of maintaining a strong security posture.

To test the effect of the information assurance education already in place at the United States Military Academy, we designed, built and ran an information awareness exercise system across the entire student body. The exercise was designed to target those counter-productive behaviors most prevalent in the student body. This paper discusses how we implemented the system and the results of the exercise.

## Biography



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Dr. Ferguson is currently the National Security Agency Fellow. He is an Electrical Engineering graduate of Howard University. He received an M.S. in Operations Research from the University of New Haven. He received an M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Statistics--from the University of Delaware. While at NSA, he provided Information Systems Security Engineering support to the Information Assurance Solutions Division. He teaches Computer Systems Design and Information Assurance and performs and directs research in support of the Information Technology Operations Center. His research interests include XML, Cross-Security Domain Information Exchange Architectures. Dr. Ferguson has taught Information Assurance course overseas in private industry and has provide information assurance consultancy to several Fortune 500 companies. In addition he works to develop, share, and infuse Information Assurance curricula throughout the academic programs at all five US service academies, and has led the efforts to obtain certification as a NSA Center of Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Education.